

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /065 W

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R 221610Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1959

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE, PGOV

SUBJECT: INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) BERLIN 6927; (B) BERLIN 6928

1. WE RECENTLY ASKED A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN ABOUT HIS CURRENT VIEWS CONCERNING THE CAUSE OF DELAY IN THE GDR'S FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT AGREEMENT THAT OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD DECEMBER 17-18 OF 1975 (REFTEL A).

2. THIS OFFICIAL NO LONGER BELIEVES THAT THE UNEXPECTED DELAY WAS THE RESULT OF FACTORS OUTSIDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT. IT WAS ASSUMED AT THE TIME THAT THE PUBLICITY IN WEST GERMANY CONCERNING FORCED ADOPTION IN THE GDR, WHICH WAS AT ITS PEEK DURING THIS PERIOD, HAD CAUSED SOME HESITATION IN THE EAST GERMAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. OUR SOURCE NOW BELIEVES THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, CONFIDENTIAL

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FEARS MAY HAVE EXISTED THAT THE REACTION IN THE FRG

WOULD BE SO STRONG THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT MIGHT BE
JEOPARDIZED.

3. THE PRESENT VIEW OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IS
THAT THERE WAS A DEBATE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE GDR
REGIME ON THE MERITS OF THE AGREEMENT. OUR SOURCE
BELIEVES THAT HONECKER HAD A DIRECT ROLE IN INSTRUCTING
GDR NEGOTIATOR SCHALCK IN HIS TALKS WITH GAUS (EF B).
THE FINAL RESULT WAS SATISFACTORY TO THE EAST GERMANS
IN ITS FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS, BUT TROUBLESOME
IN THAT WEST BERLIN MATTERS WERE NEGOTIATED BY GAUS
WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT OF THE SENAT. OUR SOURCE SPECULATES
THAT THE DEBATE ON THIS POINT IN THE EAST GERMAN
REGIME WAS BETWEEN HONECKER AND AXEN, AND THAT WHILE IT
IS UNLIKELY THAT SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT WAS IN
JEOPARDY, THERE WAS A SHARP EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT THE
FRG'S ROLE IN WEST BERLIN MATTERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, NEGOTIATIONS, BERLIN HIGHWAY ACCESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN05107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-1134
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760133/aaaabclq.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BERLIN 6927, 75 BERLIN 6928
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006